

This situation in regard to the Riordan factory is bad enough. It probably cost Anna Imroth her life.

This is a strong statement, but here is the description of the scene following the fire, which justifies it. The description is by Aloysium Jacobecz, a carpenter with a workshop at 2026 W. Kinzie, near the factory:

"I saw the flames start up," says Jacobecz. "I saw them spread quickly. Then I saw the men and girls who worked in the place rush to the windows.

"I saw them look wildly around for some way of escape. And then I saw them jump through the windows. They landed, most of them, on a roof one story lower.

"They were terribly cut by the glass from the windows through which they had jumped. They were bleeding, and they were so frightened that I wonder they did not become insane."

If fire escapes had been provided in the building these girls, who were so frightened that one who saw them afterward wonders they did not lose their senses, who were cut by glass and hurt in their mad jumps from the windows of the burning factory, would have been able to escape.

Probably Anna Imroth would have escaped by a fire escape and would be alive today.

If only the doors had opened outward as ordered by the state law Anna Imroth probably would have escaped from the building that caused her death.

But what is really more im-

portant than all this is that it is common talk around the building inspector's office that there are many other buildings in Chicago which are just like the Riordan factory.

That is, that the owners of these buildings, to evade the three stories or more in height ordinance, have sunk the building a few feet below the sidewalk and called the ground floor a basement.

This means that any day there may be another fire such as the Riordan one; that any day there may be another Anna Imroth trapped in a burning hell; that any day there may be another sacrifice of an American woman to the lust of the employer who will not spend the money to protect the lives of those who make his money for him.

Captain Charles Denny of Fire Engine Company No. 7, which was first at the fire, is ready to testify as to the inward-opening doors and the lack of proper fire escapes.

Thomas J. Reynolds, chief of the sixth battalion, is ready to tell the same story and has in his possession detailed reports of the firemen who worked on the fire.

Meantime, there is a most remarkable attack of passing the buck among the officials who should investigate the case.

Fire Attorney Joseph Murray says it is up to City Prosecutor McInerney to attend to any violations of the law that may have occurred in the building of the Riordan factory. Which is true,